IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 6, 7 and 38 without prejudice.

Please replace claims 4, 12, 13, 23, 26, 29, 46, 47, 50, 53, 55, 56, 61, 62, 63, 65, 66, 67, 75, and 76 with the following amended claims:

A2

4. (Amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

12. (Amended) A process for identifying candidate inhibitors of h2520-59 polypeptide activity or production comprising exposing a cell according to claim 5 to the candidate inhibitors, measuring h2520-59 polypeptide activity or production in said cell, and comparing activity of h2520-59 in cells exposed to the candidate inhibitor with activity in cells not exposed to the candidate inhibitor.

A3

13. (Amended) A process for identifying candidate stimulators of h2520-59 polypeptide activity or production comprising exposing a cell according to claim 5 to the candidate stimulators, measuring h2520-59 polypeptide activity or production in said cell, and comparing activity of h2520-59 in cells exposed to the candidate stimulator with activity in cells not exposed to the candidate stimulator.

A4

23. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

A5

26. (Amended) An antibody or fragment thereof that specifically binds the polypeptide of claim 14.

A6

29. (Amended) A method of detecting or quantitating the amount of h2520-59 polypeptide in a sample comprising contacting a sample suspected of containing h2520-59 polypeptide with the anti-h2520-59 antibody or antibody fragment of claim 25 and detecting the binding of said antibody or antibody fragment.

A7

46. (Amended) A hybridoma that produces a selective binding agent capable of binding a polypeptide according to claim 14.

47. (Amended) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim14 and a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation agent.

50. (Amended) A polypeptide comprising a derivative of the polypeptide of claim 14.

53. (Amended) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation agent.

55. (Amended) A viral vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

56. (Amended) A fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of claim 14 fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence.

61. (Amended) A method for treating, preventing or ameliorating a medical condition in a mammal resulting from decreased levels of h2520-59 polypeptide comprising administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide of claim 14 or the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 1 to said mammal.

62. (Amended) A method of diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition in a subject caused by or resulting from abnormal levels of h2520-59 polypeptide comprising:

(a) determining the presence or amount of expression of the polypeptide of claim 14 or the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 in a sample; and

(b) comparing the level of h2520-59 polypeptide in a biological, tissue or cellular sample from normal subjects or the subject at a different time, wherein susceptibility to a pathological condition is based on the presence or amount of expression of the polypeptide.

63. (Amended) A device, comprising:

(a) a membrane suitable for implantation; and

(b) cells encapsulated within said membrane, wherein said cells secrete a polypeptide of claim 14, and wherein said membrane is permeable to said protein.